

As senior DEA officials obstructed the work of the inspector generals, it was not until 5 years after the Ahuas shooting that the victims were finally cleared of any wrongdoing. But justice for the victims and their families remains elusive. Though the lives of those left behind have been shattered, some by debilitating injuries and others by the loss of parents and breadwinners, they have not received fair compensation, and they have languished in dire poverty. The wrongful actions that resulted in their injuries or the death of their loved ones have not been punished in any way. Those who misled Congress, willfully concealing their agencies' deadly errors, were not disciplined at all, and one senior official even received a promotion. The U.S. Embassy and the DEA coordinated this operation with the Honduras National Police Director Juan Carlos Bonilla. Today, Bonilla is in custody after being extradited to the U.S., charged with ordering assassinations in support of drug traffickers protected by former President Juan Orlando Hernandez.

In honor of these and other victims of deadly errors committed by U.S. counternarcotics agents abroad, it is imperative that we hold ourselves and our institutions accountable and that we recognize our mistakes and correct them. If we claim to believe in justice and the rule of law, we cannot allow Federal officials to misrepresent the facts and cover up their wrongdoing when reporting to Congress.

We must also provide support to victims of the so-called drug war, not stigmatize and slander them, and examine the impact that our approach to drug interdiction has on areas like the Moskitia. It was obvious soon after the massacre that those who had directed and carried it out had minimal knowledge of the people and communities of that isolated area. They rushed to judgment, assuming that anyone traveling that river, no matter how impoverished, must be in some way involved in trafficking drugs and therefore a legitimate target of lethal force. Those who pay the price for militarized policing and for the corruption and violence drug trafficking organizations use to protect their activities are the most vulnerable: indigenous communities like Ahuas and the human rights activists who defend the rights of those caught in the crossfire.

I wish I could say that the DEA and the State Department have learned the lessons of Ahuas. But that will not be possible until those who fired on those innocent people and lied about it are brought to justice and until the victims are properly compensated and cared for. That is the shared responsibility of the U.S. and Honduran Governments.

RECOGNIZING THE 2022 AMERICAN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION STARS OF LIFE

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the paramedics, emergency medical technicians—EMTs—and other emergency medical services—EMS—professionals across the country who provide vital 9-1-1 emergency and nonemergency medical care across this country. These healthcare professionals are on the frontlines and put the needs of their patients before their own. I would like to recognize, in particular, those EMS professionals being honored last week as “Stars of Life” by the American Ambulance Association.

Every year, the dispatch of an ambulance is the first response to millions of medical emergencies. Often, the survival of a patient hinges on the prompt medical attention provided by paramedics and EMTs prior to the arrival at an emergency room. As a result of the selfless acts of these courageous and devoted individuals, thousands of Americans lives are saved each year. This was especially true during the COVID-19 pandemic as paramedics and EMTs provided medical care, vaccinations, testing, and ambulance transport for 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. These professionals deserve our utmost gratitude.

For the past 30 years, the American Ambulance Association has honored those paramedics, EMTs, dispatchers, and other ambulance service personnel who exemplify what is best about the EMS field. The American Ambulance Association has appropriately designated these exceptional individuals as “Stars of Life.”

I am especially proud of the six Stars of Life from our State of Arkansas. Devin Holland, Kenneth Jenkins, Randy Murry, Amanda Nesbitt, Alvin Short of Pafford EMS in Hope, and Benny Ford of Medic One Ambulance in Jonesboro. These six professionals help ensure that Arkansans have vital and often lifesaving ambulance services within their communities.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:04 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 7691. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for assistance for the situation in Ukraine for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 3182. An act to provide that inclined sleepers for infants and crib bumpers shall be considered banned hazardous products under section 8 of the Consumer Product Safety Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6023. An act to require the United States Postal Service to continue selling the

Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp until all remaining stamps are sold, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

At 11:53 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1097. An act to establish a Federal rotational cyber workforce program for the Federal cyber workforce.

S. 2201. An act to manage supply chain risk through counterintelligence training, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6015. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Benjamin Berell Ferencz, in recognition of his service to the United States and international community during the post-World War II Nuremberg trials and lifelong advocacy for international criminal justice and rule of law.

H.R. 6614. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4744 Grand River Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the “Rosa Louise McCauley Parks Post Office Building”.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 6614. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4744 Grand River Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the “Rosa Louise McCauley Parks Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 4190. A bill to provide for the independent and objective conduct and supervision of audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to Ukraine for military, economic, and humanitarian aid.

S. 4191. A bill to prohibit the expenditure of Federal funds for the establishment or operation of the Disinformation Governance Board in the Department of Homeland Security.

H.R. 7691. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for assistance for the situation in Ukraine for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME (LEGISLATIVE DAY MAY 10, 2022)

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 7691. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for assistance for the situation in Ukraine for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

S. 4190. A bill to provide for the independent and objective conduct and supervision of audits and investigations relating